

OPINION 1542

Chelifer Geoffroy, 1762 (Arachnida, Pseudoscorpionida): conserved

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers the generic name *Chelifer* Geoffroy, 1762 is hereby ruled to be available.

(2) The name *Chelifer* Geoffroy, 1762 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Latreille (1810) '*Scorpio cancroides* Fabricius, 1775' (= *Acarus cancroides* Linnaeus, 1758) is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.

(3) The name *cancroides* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Acarus cancroides* (specific name of the type species of *Chelifer* Geoffroy, 1762), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

(4) The name CHELIFERIDAE Westwood, 1838 (type genus *Chelifer* Geoffroy, 1762) is hereby placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology.

(5) The name *Obisium* Illiger, 1798 is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology (a junior objective synonym of *Chelifer* Geoffroy, 1762).

History of Case 2478

An application for the conservation of *Chelifer* Geoffroy, 1762 was received from Dr M. S. Harvey (*Museum of Victoria, Abbotsford, Australia*) on 31 May 1984. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 44: 188–189 (September 1987). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

A comment in support by Professor I. M. Kerzhner (*Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Leningrad*) was published in BZN 45: 49 (March 1988).

A comment by Professor L. B. Holthuis pointed out that the family-group name CHELIFERIDAE can be taken from Westwood (1838, p. 145).

Because it did not give single words for specific names Geoffroy's 1762 work was rejected in Opinion 228 (April 1954). In that Opinion specialists were nevertheless invited to submit proposals for making individual names available as from Geoffroy when, in their view, that course would best serve stability. Since then, 15 of Geoffroy's 61 new generic names have been ruled (under the plenary powers) to be available. The most recent of the eight opinions concerned is Opinion 1273 (BZN 41: 28–31, March 1984), in which four coleopteran generic names were made available as from Geoffroy, 1762.

After Geoffroy, the name *Chelifer* was next given by Müller (1764, p. xxiv), without included species, in a table comparing Linnaeus and Geoffroy genera, which synonymised it with *Acarus* Linnaeus, 1758. Although Müller did not adopt *Chelifer* as the valid name of a taxon, his listing might perhaps be regarded as making the name available under Articles 11e and 50g. *Chelifer* has apparently never been attributed to Müller (although one of Geoffroy's new generic names (*Crioceris*) was put on the Official List with Müller's authorship in Opinion 908).

The Commission was accordingly asked to vote on proposals (1)–(5) published in BZN 44: 189, with (4) amended to give Westwood, 1838 as the author of CHELIFERIDAE.

Proposal (6) on BZN 44: 189 (the placing of the invalid name OBISIIDAE on the Official Index) is unnecessary and was withdrawn.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 December 1988 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 44: 189, as amended above. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 1989 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 22: Bayer, Bock, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Dupuis, Hahn, Heppell, Holthuis, Kabata, Martins de Souza, Melville, Mroczkowski, Nielsen, Ride, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Thompson, Trjapitzin, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — 1: Kraus.

No votes were returned by Gruchy, Halvorsen and Lehtinen.

Professor Martins de Souza commented 'I agree with Professor Dupuis (BZN 41: 30) "... que la Commission, dans son Opinion 228, avait agi avec précipitation en rejetant en bloc le travail de Geoffroy ...". Furthermore, *Chelifer cancroides* is a synanthropic species with world distribution and the rejection of *Chelifer* would cause great confusion'. Professor Starobogatov commented that the conservation of *Chelifer* Geoffroy was very important.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

cancroides, *Acarus*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Systema Naturae*, Ed. 10, vol. 1, p. 616.

Chelifer Geoffroy, 1762, *Histoire abrégée des insectes qui se trouvent aux environs de Paris*, vol. 2, p. 617.

CHELIFERIDAE Westwood, 1838, *The Entomologist's text book; an introduction to the natural history, structure, physiology and classification of Insects, including the Crustacea and Arachnida*, p. 145.

Obisium Illiger, 1798, In Kugelann, *Verzeichniss der Käfer Preussens. Entworfen von Johann Gottlieb Kugelann. Ausgearbeitet von Johann Karl Wilhelm Illiger*, p. 501.